

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 06401 220413Z
ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00
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FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 473
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 6401

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAIR, HK, SN, US
SUBJ: CIVAIR: SINGAPORE'S HONG KONG LANDING RIGHTS

REF: A) STATE 114391, B) HONG KONG 5326, C) SINGAPORE 1905

1. HONG KONG CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT OFFICER RESPONSIBLE FOR
NEGOTIATING INTERNATIONAL AIR SERVICES AGREEMENTS (NORMAN LATHAM)
MAY 19 GAVE CONGENOFF FOLLOWING SUMMARY OF UK-SINGAPORE DISCUSSIONS
CONCERNING SINGAPORE'S HONG KONG LANDING RIGHTS FOR TRANS-
PACIFIC PASSENGER SERVICE.

2. LATHAM NOTED THAT EXISTING UK-SINGAPORE AIR SERVICES
AGREEMENT GIVES SINGAPORE THE SINGAPORE-HONG KONG-US ROUTE.
BUT UK WILL NOT LET SINGAPORE EXERCISE THE RIGHTS WITHOUT SOME
CONCESSION TO CORRECT THE EARNINGS IMBALANCE NOW
ENJOYED BY SINGAPORE AIRLINES (SIA) AGAINST UK
COMPETITION (BRITISH AIRWAYS (BA) AND CATHAY PACIFIC (CX) IN
ASIA. THUS FAR, SIA - NOT GOS - OFFICIALS HAVE
NEGOTIATED THIS ISSUE WITH UK DEPARTMENT OF TRADE;
AND LATHAM FELT THAT THEY WERE "CLOSE TO A DEAL." HE EXPECTS
THE GOS TO ENTER THE TALKS AND CONCLUDE AN AGREEMENT WITH HMG
IN JUNE. LATHAM PREDICTED THAT SIA WILL TAKE UP THE TRANS-
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PACIFIC ROUTE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE THEREAFTER, ALTHOUGH HE
DOUBTS THAT SIA WILL PROFIT BY IT FOR SEVERAL YEARS.

3. COMMENT. LATHAM'S INFORMATION SUPPLEMENTS THAT REPORTED
REFTELS. HIS VIEWS ON SIA'S TRANS-PACIFIC PROFITABILITY
REFLECT CX MARKET STUDIES, AS CX DOUBTS THAT IT (CX)
COULD OPERATE ANN CONOMIC HONG KONG-US SERVICE

BEFORE 1981.
SHOESMITH

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